

Mid City Plating Co. Inc. (IND 006 049 456)
521 E. Charles
Muncie, IN

Mid City Plating is a GPRA baseline site in the 2020 Corrective Action Universe. The site was inspected by Region 5 personnel on September 7, 2011 in connection with RCRA corrective action. The site originally notified as a hazardous waste TSD in 1980. As a result of an IDEM inspection in 1992, in which it was revealed that hazardous wastes containing cyanide (F008) were being stored longer than 90 days, RCRA closure was required for the “Old Chrome Shop” portion of the building, located in the east-central portion of the site. The wastes were removed in 1993, and source area soil testing identified the presence of cyanide contamination at shallow depths in the soil. Remedial actions were completed in October 1998, including the decontamination of the concrete floor where the wastes had been stored, and disposal of 6 yards of cyanide impacted soil in isolated grassy exterior areas north of the building (prior to the construction of a portion of the current building in this area) where cyanide impacts were detected. The site was issued a clean closure certification in January 1999. No Permit Applications were submitted to EPA.

A site visit was coordinated with the owner of Mid City, Mr. Rodney Muzzarelli (765-289-2374; rod@mcplating.com). At approximately 16:00 CDT, Joe Kelly of Region 5 met with Mr. Muzzarelli onsite. Mr. Muzzarelli provided a tour of the facility, and a brief background. In addition, Mr. Muzzarelli provided a copy of the prior RCRA closure report. Based on discussions with Mr. Muzzarelli, Mid City started operations in approximately 1966. At that time, Mid City was owned by Sam Dobro. Mr. Muzzarelli’s dad, Tony, purchased the site and operations in the mid 1970s. The original building was located at 416 S. Hackley, and subsequent additions were constructed in approximately 1973, 1985, and 1995, bringing the site to its current configuration. Mr. Muzzarelli’s father died several years ago and left the business to him. Operations at the site include various forms of plating, primarily animal cages for the pet industry; however, the majority of operations have effectively shut down due to a loss of industry work to companies in China. Mr. Muzzarelli has reduced his workforce to approximately 5 employees over the past five years, down from over 200 employed during multiple shifts at the height of Mid City’s operations.

Mid City Plating is located in south-central Muncie. The site encompasses approximately 120,000 sq ft, with approximately 80,000 sq ft of the site under roof, and the majority of the remaining area paved or concrete-covered. Small grassy areas are present at the east side of the site, and in a small central courtyard located between buildings. The site is located in a mixed residential/industrial area. To the north of the site is Charles Street, followed by Society of St. Vincent de Paul charitable society; to the west is Hackley Street, followed by a vacant residential properties; to the south is a rail spur, followed by a printing facility (Pengad-Indy); to the east is Beacon Street, followed by a residential area (partially vacant).

A tour of the facility revealed that the majority of the site is not operating. Chemical storage was observed throughout the site, in temporary storage totes that were in the process of being moved, and in 55-gallon drums located primarily in the central portion of the site. Mr. Muzzarelli indicated that the plating lines in the north portion of the site were relatively new, but had not been used in a long time because of the economic downturn. The plating lines in the southwestern portion of the site appeared to be in operation at the time of the site visit. A hazardous waste dumpster was present in the northwestern portion of the site, used to store plating sludge. This dumpster was inspected by US EPA's RCRA Section, and it was found that the storage in this area exceeded 90 days, with the most recent manifest for disposal dating back to prior years. Based on information provided at that time, the disposal company would not pick up the hazardous waste because Mr. Muzzarelli still owed them money for the prior hazardous waste shipment.

Information in the Region 5 records regarding this site identified a compliance inspection (June 2010), report (Nov. 2010), and NOV (March 2011). The site is currently undergoing enforcement actions for illegal storage and potential releases, among other violations. A 2010 inspection was performed by Jamie Paulin of Region 5. Several issues, including improper storage of hazardous wastes and potential leaks/spills, were identified. The inspection resulted in the issuance of a NOV, which stated that the site had exceeded the 90 day storage limit and was therefore considered an operator of a hazardous waste storage facility that had not applied for a permit and did not have interim status. Mid City was provided with 30 days to correct the issues and respond in writing.

It should be noted that the prior remediation targeted only cyanide impacted soil, due to the presence of F008 wastes during the 1992 inspection; however, the wastes stored in the area also reportedly included D001 (naphtha), D003 (reactive), and D007 (chromium) wastes. It is unclear from the available information whether these contaminants were specifically addressed in connection with the RCRA closure. Further, an April 16, 1997 IDEM inspection revealed a "spill of F008 plating waste at the east end of the Jessup Line" that was "cleaned up before" the inspector left the site. Mid City contended that the waste was non-hazardous calcium carbonate crust from a cooling system repair. This area was west of the area subject to CA, and was not likely previously investigated.

A photographic log of the RCRA inspection is attached, along with photographs from the more-recent inspection showing the general perimeter of the property, the primary chemical waste storage location, and general operations.